

The Thacher Island News

Volume 2, Issue 2

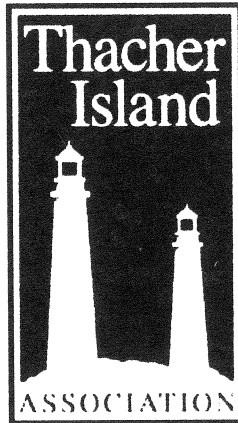
November 2002

Summer attracts a variety of visitors to the island

In our second year of being open to the public, we had over 1500 visitors. Many came via the Saturday morning rides on the Thacher launch, while others came in their own craft from kayaks to cruisers to sailboats. This summer the Rockport harbor master, Scott Story, and local fisherman and marine wildlife photographer, Captain Bill Lee each donated a new guest mooring for the island. This brings the number of guest moorings to three, which allows us to provide added access to the island.

A variety of groups were also brought out by our launch or by their own vessels. Here's a list:

30 members of the Rockport Rotary held a cookout, 18 members of the Rockport Council on Aging, 24 members of Troop 30 Boys Scouts camped overnight, 8 members of the Edison Elementary School of Rochester Minnesota held their 50th



Landing Town officials on a stormy day.

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List of major donors. See this list on page 3

Make reservations for guest apartment soon. See details on page 2

Art & Photo Day receives rave reviews. Over 50 artists participated. Story on Page 5.

Special thanks to Nancy and Merrell. Six year veteran keepers retire and are honored. Story on Page 5.

class reunion, 2 newly weds spent their honeymoon night in the guest apartment, 2 ham radio operators spent a long weekend competing in an international radio contest, 20 members of the Marblehead Power Squadron, as well as members of the Rockport Board of Selectman and various Town officials. A youth group called Coastal Discoveries came from Newburyport on a weekly basis during July and August aboard the 42' *Erica Lee*. This is a non-profit group dedicated to teaching youngsters 12 and over about the marine environment. Each week they came to the island with about 25 children to explore the ecology, study marine life and learn basic boating skills as well as marine history. Over 200 youngsters enjoyed the many charms of Thachers and went home with memories and skills they will not soon forget.

The more than 1500 visitors and guests originated from 23 states and 6 foreign countries.

TIA encourages the use of Thacher as an educational and recreational resource for the public and invites other civic and youth groups to take advantage of this beautiful and historic landmark.

New Guest apartment booked for season

This summer we made the other side of the assistant keeper's house available for rental to the public for the first time ever. We began renting on the weekend of July 6th and had every weekend through September 29th booked, a total of 13 weekends. This was made possible by the efforts of Syd Wedmore and his Wednesday work crews. Also the fine work that Nancy and Merrell Beebe and Andy and Kathy Heinz, our volunteer keepers, as well as Susan Burrage all of whom pitched in to turn this apartment into a beautiful and cozy retreat. Repainting, redecorating, refinishing of floors as well as the installation of a new oak floor in the kitchen has turned this old 1860's dwelling into a charming and pleasant place to live for our guests. Gardner Mattress Co. of Salem contributed 8 brand new customized beds and a total of 28 folks got to enjoy the quiet and comfort of these marvelous accommodations.



New boat house sign



We would like to thank Paul Butman, owner of the Signery in Gloucester for contributing the new 8 foot boat house sign. It incorporates the Town of Rockport Seal and highlights Thacher Island's National Historic Landmark status. Its constructed on 3/4" solid high density resin backboard and heavy

3 dimensional letters. The 3 color red white and blue motif blends perfectly with the new American flag flying proudly over the island.

New rates for 2003

The Thacher Island Town Committee has announced new permit fees for the apartment for 2003 summer season.

Permit fee will be \$150 per night for 2 people (2 night minimum) and \$50 per night for each additional person.

The apartment is available on weekdays as well as weekends beginning on July 4th and running through September 28th. A \$200, non-refundable deposit is required if not cancelled one month before occupancy. The apartment accommodates 6 people comfortably.

Anyone interested should contact the Thacher Island Town Committee at 978-546-7341

New porch completed on Keeper's house

Through the efforts of Peter Bergholtz and Dick Morris a brand new open porch was created on the northeast side of the keeper's house. This porch replaces the old enclosed porch which was severely deteriorated.

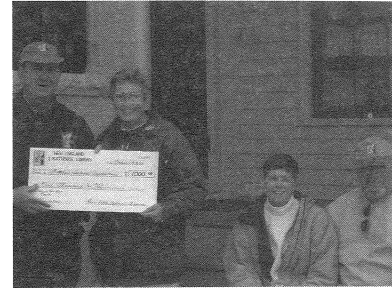


The new porch recreates the original design of the 1861 porch. Paul St. Germain was able to find the original construction drawings at the National Archives in Washington D.C. which enabled Peter and Dick to replicate the porch right down to the turned tapered columns, mahogany decking and wide stairway.



Thank You to these organizations and individuals for their generous donations this summer.

Mark Drury - Percolator Design - New TIA Graphics
 Paul Butman- The Signery-Island Signage
 Jim Knott-Riverdale Mills Corp.-Coated wire for the Cistern
 Gardner Sisk-Gardner Mattress Corp.-Mattresses
 Les Bartlett-Follow the Gleam-Audio/visual Presentations
 Keating Willcox-*The Formidable*- Tickets for Tall Ship Sails
 Frank Carbone-New England Lighthouse Lovers-Porch
 Garie and Ken Perry-Granite Bench
 Bob Smith- New Outhouse for campground



N.E.L.L. presents check

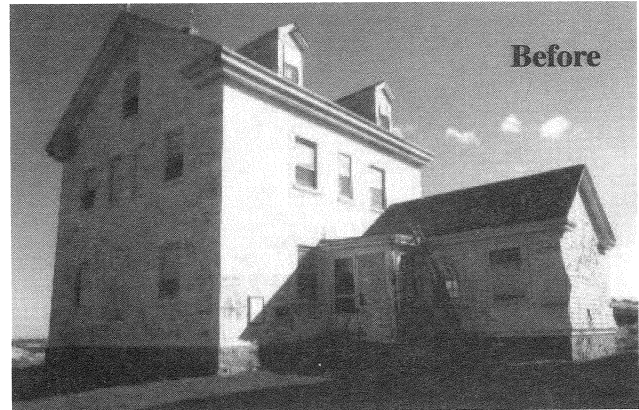
A \$1000 donation by the New England Lighthouse Lovers (NELL) organization for completion of the porch project. Shown above is John and Carolyn Carbone NELL officers with the presentation check and NELL members John and Noreen Waters. NELL is an autonomous chapter of the American Lighthouse Foundation. Their membership is largely from the 6 New England states and focuses on lighthouse restoration projects, preservation and education. Thacher Island is one of three lighthouses to receive donations this year. The others are the North Light on Block Island and Avery Point Light in Groton, CT.

Assistant Keeper's house completed

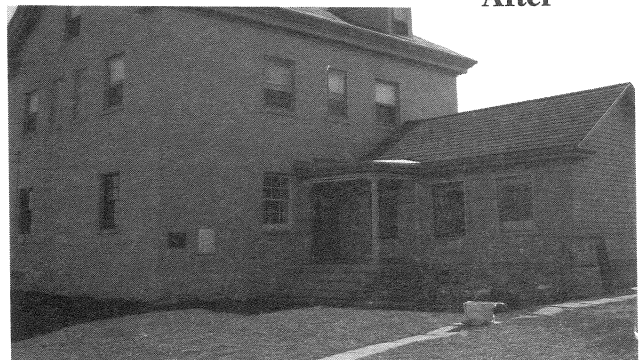
We are happy to report that the reroofing and painting project announced in the last newsletter was completed on June 13th. Below you can see a photo of the before and after of the house. Campbell Construction Group of Beverly used a helicopter to ferry the pallets of new shingles and old shingles on and off the island. The entire dwelling was repainted according to the original 1890's colors of light and dark gray as determined by our historical paint analyst, Finch and Rose Co. New soffits and cornice boards were specially milled to recreate the original look of the building from the 1861 construction drawings. The entire project cost was over \$60,000 funded through various grants from Essex National Heritage Commission, the Essex County Community Foundation and the Boston Foundation as well as many individual private donations.



Helicopter drops a load of shingles for the roofers and picks up bags of old shingles for disposal.



Before

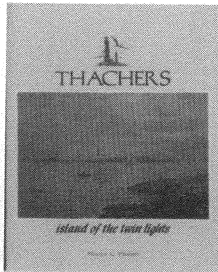


After



Thacher Island...An adventure with keeper Russell Grubb.
115 pgs. Soft cover, many b/w photos.

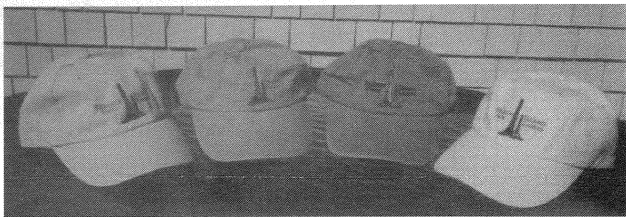
In December of 1980, Russell Grubb became the first volunteer civilian keeper at Cape Ann Light Station on Thacher Island. This is the story of the first 5 years that made him part of Thacher history.
Available for \$8.00 including postage.



Thachers.... island of the twin lights
149 pages with many b/w photos.

Book by Eleanor Parsons. The definitive book on the history of Thacher Island. Signed by her as well!

\$22.00 incl. postage and handling



New hats for the summer. Shows off the Thacher Island Twin Lights logo in great summer colors Yellow, Periwinkle Blue, Lime and Tangerine. One size fits all adjustable, 100% cotton washable.

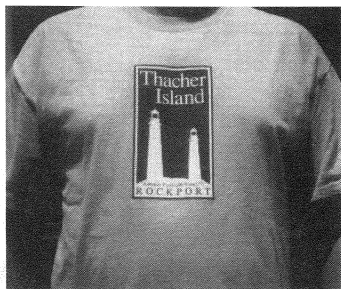
\$20.00 incl shipping and handling.



Denim Keeper Shirt.

This 100% cotton soft denim shirt is a key item to own .It proudly shows off the new Thacher Island twin lights logo embroidered in dark blue. Comes in S,M,L,XL.

\$40.00 incl. postage and handling.



Thacher T-shirt ,

100% cotton in gray with dark blue TIA logo and the words "America's twin lights since 1771"

\$20.00 incl. postage and handling

**To order make checks payable and send to:
Thacher Island Association
Box 73, Rockport MA 01966**

Art and Photo Day a great success.

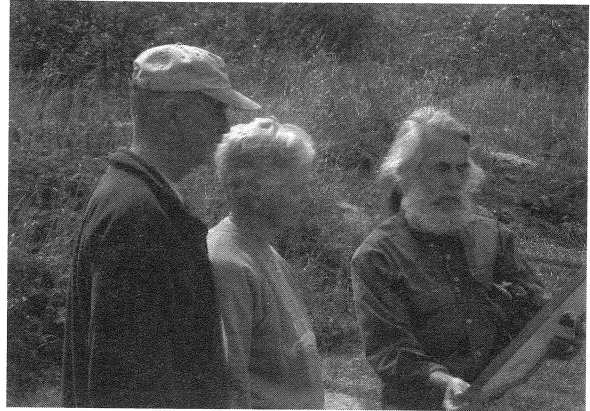


August 21 and 24 marked the dates we conducted our first annual Art&Photo Day on Thacher. Fifty three artists and photographers were taken out to the island in the Thacher launch over this two day period. They included beginners experts, old and young. A number of well known local artists including Eileen Mueller, Marilyn Swift, Ivan Kamalic, Donald Mosher, Ann Fisk and Les Bartlett were among the artists who enjoyed the day. The participants produced 50+ paintings and hundreds of photographs.

On Labor Day weekend we held an Art Show to exhibit and sell their works at the Old Firehouse Trust building in Dock Square. Twenty nine artists displayed their work and donated all or a portion of their sales to the TIA. Artists ranged in age from 5 years old to 89. TIA would like to thank all of the participants as well as the committee headed by Susan Burrage for coordinating and running this very special event. Also the Rockport Art Association for lending us display panels, Mark Drury for designing and creating the signs and Dottie Carroll for handling the sale of Thacher merchandise. We are pleased to report that over 800 people attended the show over the two day period. Due to the tremendous participation and interest we hope to make this an annual event.



Thanks to Nancy & Merrell, Dottie & George



Left to right Merrell & Nancy Beebe, Syd Wedmore

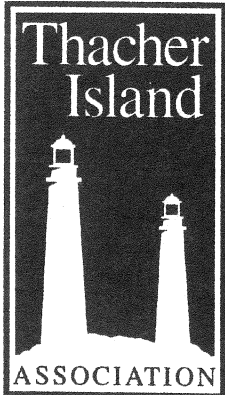
August 31 was the last day of Nancy and Merrell Beebe's tenure as volunteer keepers. It also marked their last time they will be volunteering after 6 years of service.

On August 14 Syd Wedmore Chairman of the TITC presented Nancy and Merrell with a plaque in appreciation of their years of service to Thacher Island. They have spent a total of twelve months out on the island since 1992 as keeper/caretakers. The plaque read in part: "they have reflected the true spirit of the Light Keeper tradition, performed their duties in a professional, personable and conscientious manner while on watch 24 hours a day...they have materially improved the physical attributes of the Island and contributed to making it a proud showplace not only for the residents of Rockport, but the entire nation thereby enhancing Thacher Island's National Historic Landmark status...."

Also on that day Dottie and George Carroll were honored when the TITC named the new campground as "Carroll Campground" in their honor. George has spent most of the summer clearing a new area for the campground that will now accommodate 30 campers. Dottie has volunteered for literally hundreds of jobs and projects over the years. She and George lived on the island as keepers from 1989 to 1992. She handles all island reservations for the Saturday morning trips, apartment rentals and acts as Corresponding Secretary to the Association. George is a regular volunteer worker and crewman on the launch and an expert tractor operator. Once again the TIA thanks each of you for your dedication and work efforts to make the island such a special place.

Thacher Island Association
Box 73
Rockport, MA 01966

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Rockport, MA.
Permit No. 19



U.S Fish and Wild Life Service erects new sign, birders are welcome

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service own the northern end of the island (about 22 acres) and maintains it as a wildlife refuge. In August they erected a new sign and marker boundaries to define the area. TITC and TIA, each work closely with the service to maintain this area's trails as well as the north tower. USF&WL has given us permission to allow visitors to climb the north tower at the discretion of the resident keepers. They are currently working on a bird census as a preliminary step to introducing terns and other species to the island. In the mean time bird watchers are welcome to visit the island when it is open as Thacher Island is located along a major flyway for migrating birds.

